

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A barrier arrangement for the control of traffic including at least one pylon assembly comprising:

an elongate post mounted in a generally vertical manner within the ground and telescopingly movable relative thereto between an uppermost position wherein said post extends above the ground surface and a lowermost position wherein said post is disposed substantially completely beneath the ground; and

a remotely-actuable drive mechanism for moving said post between said uppermost and lowermost positions, said drive mechanism including an elongate and generally vertically oriented rotatable drive shaft, and a drive member coupled to said drive shaft and fixed to said post, wherein rotation of said drive shaft causes displacement of said drive member and said post relative to and along said drive shaft to move said post into one of said uppermost and lowermost positions, wherein an abrupt and downwardly directed axial force applied to an upper end of said post during upward movement thereof decouples said drive member from said drive shaft.

22. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 wherein said pylon assembly includes a housing disposed in a generally vertical manner within the ground, and said post is disposed generally coaxially within said housing and is telescopingly moveable relative thereto.

23. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 22 wherein said drive mechanism includes an electric motor disposed adjacent a lower end of said housing and in driving engagement with said drive shaft.

24. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 wherein said drive shaft is configured to permit downward movement of said drive member relative thereto upon application of the downwardly directed force.

25. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 wherein said drive member is disposed in clamping engagement with said drive shaft, and said drive member is adjustable to permit variation of the clamping force by said drive member on said drive shaft.

26. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 wherein said post is constructed of flexible material such that when a lateral force is applied to said post when in the uppermost position or during upward movement thereof, said post bends sidewardly and then returns to an upright position when the source of the lateral force is removed.

27. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 wherein said drive shaft has an outer surface and said drive member is disposed in contact with said outer surface, said outer surface being smooth to permit downward slippage of said drive member and said post relative to said drive shaft upon application of the downwardly directed force.

28. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of Claim 21 including a plurality of said pylon assemblies arranged in side-by-side, spaced relation with one another in a predetermined configuration to provide traffic guidance in a selected location.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~traffic control device~~  
barrier arrangement for the control of traffic comprising:

a traffic-controlling post disposed in a generally upright manner within the ground, said post being reciprocatingly movable between an upper position wherein said post extends above the surface of the ground and a lower position wherein the post is disposed substantially beneath the ground; and

a remotely-actuable drive arrangement ~~controllable from a remote location~~ for moving said post into the upper and lower positions, said drive arrangement including a rotatable drive shaft and an actuator member coupled with said drive shaft for converting rotary motion thereof into linear motion to move said post into said upper or lower position, wherein a generally downwardly directed force imposed on an upper end of said post during upward movement thereof causes said actuator member to decouple from said drive shaft and allow lowering of said post.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~device arrangement~~ of Claim 29 wherein said actuator member is coupled to said drive shaft so as to translate upwardly or downwardly relative to and along said drive shaft depending upon the rotational direction thereof to raise said post into the upper position or lower said post into the lower position.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~device arrangement~~ of Claim 29 wherein said actuator member clampingly engages said drive shaft with a predetermined clamping force and when the downwardly directed force exceeds a predetermined value as determined by said predetermined clamping force, said post and said actuator member break free of positive engagement with said drive shaft and translate downwardly relative thereto until the source of the force is removed.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~arrangement of Claim 29 wherein said actuator clampingly engages said drive shaft, and when the downwardly directed force exceeds the clamping force of said actuator on said drive shaft, said actuator and said post decouple from said drive shaft.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~arrangement of Claim 29 wherein said actuator member includes a pair of clamping members disposed in opposed relation with one another on opposite sides of said drive shaft, said clamping members being fastened to one another in an adjustable manner to permit variation of the clamping force of said actuator member on said drive shaft.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~arrangement of Claim 29 wherein said drive shaft is threadless.

35-37 (Cancelled).

38. (New) A method of operating a barrier arrangement for controlling traffic including at least one pylon assembly, said method comprising:

providing a pylon assembly with an elongate post mounted in a generally vertical manner within the ground and telescopingly movable relative thereto between an uppermost position wherein the post extends above the ground surface for controlling traffic and a lowermost position wherein the post is disposed substantially beneath the ground, a remotely-actuable drive mechanism for moving said post between the uppermost and lowermost positions and having an elongate and generally vertically oriented rotatable drive shaft and a drive member coupled to the drive shaft and fixed to the post; remotely actuating the drive mechanism and rotating the drive shaft to cause displacement of the drive member and the post relative to and along the drive shaft to move the post into one of the uppermost and lowermost positions;

applying an abrupt and downwardly directed axial force to the upper end of the post during upward movement thereof; and upon application of the downwardly directed axial force, decoupling the drive member from the drive shaft to prevent damage to the pylon assembly.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38 including applying a downwardly directed axial force to the upper end of the pylon as same emerges from the ground.

40. (New) The method of Claim 38 including applying a downwardly directed axial force to the upper end of the pylon during upward movement thereof with a vehicle wheel.